

Application No.: 10/025130

Case No.: 56008US002

REMARKS

Claim 31 is currently cancelled. Claims 43, 45, and 47-52 are currently amended. New claims 57 and 58 are added. Claims 30, 32, and 39-58 are pending.

Objection

The Examiner objected to claim 40 under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 31. Applicants have cancelled claim 31 and respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

35 USC § 103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 43, 44, and 46-55 as being obvious over European Patent 0 380 236 of Leir (hereinafter "EP '236"). Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are not obvious over this reference.

Regarding independent claim 43, EP '236 provides no disclosure of an adhesive article that contains a pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on a foam backing having a surface that contains acidic groups. All the backings disclosed in this reference are films rather than foams. Because this reference does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, claims 43, 44, and 46-49 are not obvious. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness rejection for these claims.

Regarding independent claim 50, EP '236 provides no disclosure of a primed surface that includes a primer on a foam having a surface that contains acidic groups. All the surfaces upon which polydiorganosiloxane polyureas are disposed in this reference are films rather than foams. Because this EP '236 does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, claims 50-55 are not obvious. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness rejection for these claims.

Regarding new claim 57, EP '236 provides no disclosure of a backing that includes acid functional groups selected from carboxylic acid groups, phosphoric acid groups, or sulfuric acid groups, wherein the backing having carboxylic acid groups includes poly(ethylene/acrylic acid), poly(ethylene/methacrylic acid), or poly(ethylene/vinyl acetate).

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Regarding new claim 58, EP '236 provides no disclosure of a primed surface that includes a primer on a surface having functional groups selected from carboxylic acid groups, phosphoric acid groups, or sulfuric acid groups, wherein the surface having carboxylic acid groups includes poly(ethylene/acrylic acid), poly(ethylene/methacrylic acid), or poly(ethylene/vinyl acetate).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for pending claims 30, 32, and 39-58 is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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